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C L A I M S

- 1. Process to prepare a microcrystalline wax and a middle distillate fuel by
- (a) hydrocracking/hydroisomerisating a Fischer-Tropsch product, wherein weight ratio of compounds having at least 60 or more carbon atoms and compounds having at least 30 carbon atoms in the Fischer-Tropsch product is at least 0.2 and wherein at least 30 wt% of compounds in the Fischer-Tropsch product have at least 30 carbon atoms,
- (b) performing one or more distillate separations on the effluent of step (a) to obtain a middle distillate fuel fraction and a microcrystalline wax having an initial boiling point of between 500 and 600 °C.
 - 2. Process according to claim 1, wherein at least 50 wt% of compounds in the Fischer-Tropsch product have at least 30 carbon atoms.
 - 3. Process according to any one of claims 1-2, wherein the weight ratio of compounds having at least 60 or more carbon atoms and compounds having at least 30 carbon atoms in the Fischer-Tropsch product is at least 0.4.
 - 4. Process according to any one of claims 1-3, wherein the conversion in step (a) is between 25 and 70 wt%.
 - 5. Process according to any one of the claims 1-4, wherein the microcrystalline wax as obtained has a congealing point of between 95-120 °C and a PEN at 43 °C as determined by IP 376 of more than 0.8 mm.
 - 6. Process according to claim 5, wherein the PEN at $43~^{\circ}\text{C}$ is more than 1.0~mm.
- 7. Process according to any one of claims 1-6, wherein the wax obtained in step (b) is subjected to an

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additional de-oiling step to obtain a wax having an oil content of between 0.1 and 2 wt%.

8. Microcrystalline wax having a congealing point of between 95 and 120 °C and a PEN at 43 °C as determined by IP 376 of more than 0.8 mm.